

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, July 16, 2001

Present: Billis, Bayless, Dumond, Hornus, Mehig, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Don Runyon; Gene Sanderson; Kevin Sanderson; Dan Flynn; Paul Smith; Clark Long; Judy Horton; Larry LeCureux; John & Patricia Sinnott; Millie Taute; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Donnie Washburn; Larry Friess; Dennis Loynes; Bernie & Pat Yott; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Department; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Billis at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Hornus moved, Runyan seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Item No. 8) Discussion on Armistice Day Parade and Celebration.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Mehig, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Councilperson Ockerman stated he wanted item number 33 Dave Harvey on the Vendor Approval Summary Report removed from the vendor disbursements if there were no objections because there seems to be a discrepancy as to how much the umpires are being paid, and he thought an error was made. He further stated a check was made out to James Kurrle for umpiring two pony games and Ed Mowinski for umpiring two pony games. Councilperson Hornus asked if a person was paid more for umpiring the regular pony games than a person is paid for junior pony games. Janet Washburn advised she did not know. Councilperson Hornus stated Mr. Harvey was being paid for umpiring four pony games, and Mr. Kurrle and Mr. Mowinski were being paid for umpiring junior pony games. Ms. Washburn advised Luke Kurrle would be the person who could answer this question because he handled all of the umpire payments. She further advised it was her understanding that everyone was being paid the same amount of money. Councilperson Ockerman asked to have the item removed until the amount was clarified. Councilperson Bayless advised Brent Mowinski was paid \$60 for umpiring two pony games so Mr. Harvey's pay would be the same for umpiring four pony games, which would indicate that this is the going rate for pony games versus junior pony games. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not know the city was

paying someone \$30 to umpire a game. Mayor Billis asked council to make a motion. Councilperson Runyan asked to have discussion if there were no objections. Mayor Billis advised he was not trying to prevent anyone from speaking. He was asking for a motion to be brought to the table since the proper way is to bring information to the table, and the information gets on the table by having someone make a motion. He further advised he does not care what the motion is as long as there is a motion on the table so there can be discussion. Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented. Councilperson Dumond asked council to turn to page three of the Invoice Approval List by Fund Report. He advised there are 18 umpires listed on the report, and it appeared that every one was paid different. Councilperson Dumond asked for an explanation. Joe Sawyer advised pony league umpires are paid \$30, junior pony league umpires are paid \$15, midget league umpires are paid \$11 and youth league umpires are paid \$10. Councilperson Runyan stated the umpire checks were cut by the softball commission prior to this year. Ms. Long advised she has cut checks through accounts payable before. Councilperson Runyan advised he did not recall seeing four different pay scales before. Ms. Washburn advised she believed the pay scale was different because some of the games last longer depending on the team level. Councilperson Hornus asked if the regular pony league was a traveling team. Ms. Washburn advised yes. Councilperson Hornus stated that league would require a little higher degree of umpires than in a junior pony league. Ms. Washburn advised the traveling team for this area is organized out of Durand so the umpire pay level would be different. Councilperson Mehigh asked Mr. Sawyer if the figures he gave earlier for umpiring games was factual information or if he was interpreting what was in a book. Mr. Sawyer advised his information came from a book, but it seems the pay level is pretty standard throughout the vendor disbursements. Councilperson Ockerman stated it was not his intent to hold up money, but he was bothered by the fact that the umpire pay went from eight dollars to \$15 per game and now he sees \$30 per game, and he was upset. He further stated he wanted some kind of explanation on how this happened and asked Ms. Washburn to check into the situation. Ms. Washburn advised she would. Councilperson Ockerman questioned the payment to Sam Burwell for reimbursement of minutes. Mr. Sawyer advised he adopted a standard policy on copying meeting minutes for candidates who have filed for a city office, which states a candidate will be given meeting minutes at no charge. Once the filing deadline has passed then a candidate will be given a council packet since it will be in the city's best interest to have informed candidates. He further advised this is a standard policy that he has used in other places, and he felt this was something that fell within his discretion as city manager to do. Councilperson Ockerman stated he appreciated the explanation.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Mehigh, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to amend the budget to include Richard Burlingame's work resume dated May 16 through June 28, 2001 in the amount of \$2,817.10.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehigh, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Mayor Billis congratulated and thanked everybody for supporting the Fourth of July Celebration. People worked very hard to pull the event off and he has received many compliments for a job well done. Councilperson Runyan advised the city had a successful Fourth of July Celebration, and he thanked all of the volunteers who volunteered their time. Councilperson Dumond stated he was disturbed that Corunna did not have a band in its own parade.

Councilperson Ockerman stated the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency ridership has doubled since last June. He advised the audience the proposed building site is in the area where the old Redmond building used to be just off of Corunna Avenue.

Councilperson Runyan stated he tried to get bands to be in the parade. Mayor Billis advised his wife used to play in the Corunna band and stated he would ask her if she would like to play in the band next year. Janet Washburn advised the parks and recreation commission has discussed developing an alumni band to play in the summertime. She further advised a person in the community has offered to direct the band.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton advised when her daughter-in-law was doing the Fourth of July parade she contacted the schools. She further advised when her son was in school he was required to be in the Fourth of July parade unless he had a real good excuse. Don Runyon complimented the police department on their Fourth of July activities. He advised when he was in the hospital in Ann Arbor the police department busted people who had illegal firecrackers and were using his side yard to set them off. He further advised fireworks belong in the park and not in the neighborhood. Mayor Billis advised the fireworks sponsored by the city do go off in the park.

Larry Friess stated last September or October, the city council passed an ordinance, which required pets to be on a leash while in the park, and at that time, he thought the ordinance would be imposed city wide, but he was told it was not. Mr. Friess asked if the city had done anything more on a citywide leash law. Mayor Billis advised he did not believe any action has been taken on that issue. Mr. Friess stated so otherwise someone blew some smoke. He asked if council was going to do anything about it or is the city going to let dogs run loose in the rest of the city. He further stated he knows there are dogs that come into his yard and asked if he could shoot them if council is not going to do anything. He also stated he wants to know what council will do with the rest of the city now that the park has been taken care of. Mayor Billis advised the city council would discuss the issue to see if the council wants to go in that direction. Mr. Friess asked Mayor Billis if he was going to blow smoke at him again. Mayor Billis advised he never has. Mr. Friess advised Councilperson Hornus told him that the city council would check into the issue.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his manager's report with council and with those in the audience. He advised he received communication from the city attorney about Sunday board and commission meetings and there are two different issues there. When a board or commission is set by an ordinance then there would have to be an ordinance modification instead of a simple motion to change it. He further advised when it comes to the Library Board, the city council would not be allowed to change their meeting date if they elected to

hold their meetings on Sunday because the library board is governed by state law and their by-laws. He also advised the roll call vote issue was another issue that he checked with the city attorney on. The library board is specifically controlled by state law and their by-laws, and the library board by-laws currently call for a roll call vote when there is a split vote on an issue. He also advised when the library board minutes state "motion passed" this means that there was a unanimous motion. He is hopeful that the library board will change their wording in the future to unanimous, but the city council is not allowed to dictate to the library board how they do that. Mr. Sawyer explained the letter that was hand delivered to the city residents on McArthur and Kingsley Street. He further explained the construction contract calls for a 40-day construction timeline with the construction being started the first week of August and would end the last week of September. Councilperson Ockerman asked if McArthur Street and Kingsley Street would be striped as three lanes. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the streets had to be striped as three lanes. Mr. Sawyer advised no, the stripes could be changed after the final inspection is done. Councilperson Ockerman asked why the state wanted to stripe those streets as three lanes. Mr. Sawyer advised the state would fund three lanes but not parking lanes. Councilperson Mehig asked if Kingsley Street would be wide enough for three lanes. Mr. Sawyer advised yes, but there would be no parking lanes. Councilperson Ockerman stated the citizens are concerned that the streets would be striped as three lanes and asked if some kind of explanation could be given as to why the streets would be striped with three lanes. Councilperson Runyan asked if an ordinance was needed to amend the city's boards and commissions. Mr. Sawyer advised the city's boards and commissions are controlled by an ordinance so a particular ordinance would have to be changed to make any modifications. Councilperson Runyan stated if a commission wanted to meet on Sunday then the ordinance would have to state that the commission would meet on Sunday. Mr. Sawyer advised that is the attorney's recommendation. Councilperson Ockerman asked which ordinance number would apply. Mr. Sawyer advised he did not know the ordinance number. Councilperson Ockerman stated he wanted a copy of the ordinance.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM ODYSSEY OF THE MIND: Dan Flynn from the Odyssey of the Mind explained they would like to use the commercial building in McCurdy Park to hold two haunted houses and a hayride. Mr. Flynn further explained the haunted house and hayride would be open to the public, and there would be an admission charge. Mr. Flynn advised there would be concessions sold and possibly some type of souvenirs with the name of the event on them. He further advised the Odyssey of the Mind would provide appropriate barrels for trash and would make sure everything is cleaned up. He also advised security and liability insurance would be provided for the patrons who come into the building just in case someone gets hurt. Mr. Flynn stated the Odyssey of the Mind is looking for sponsors, and the Independent has offered to do the advertising. He further stated the haunted houses would be open on Friday and Saturday until the last week of October then it would be open every day the entire last week of October. He also stated there would be fire extinguishers and emergency exits. Mayor Billis asked if the request had been presented to the parks and recreation commission. Councilperson Bayless advised not in this format. The proposal was very preliminary, and the commission sought additional information. Mr. Flynn asked the city council if they had any questions. Councilperson Dumond asked what the size of each square would be. Mr. Flynn advised four foot by four foot. Councilperson Mehig asked if the Odyssey of the Mind had put on a program like this before. Mr. Sanderson advised he did the haunted house in the community party for three years in a row. Councilperson Ockerman stated the park closes at

10 p.m. He further stated he thought one of the fire trucks was being kept in the building. Mr. Sawyer advised there is one fire truck that is being kept in the building. Ms. Washburn advised there is no truck in the building now. Sgt. Kevin Clark advised the aerial fire truck is being stored in the building. Councilperson Ockerman advised he believed the city ordinance states the park closes at 10 p.m., and other groups using the park have been told to leave the park by 10 p.m. He further advised he was concerned about the citizens who live around the park, but understands that the group wants darkness. Councilperson Runyan stated if he heard correctly there was an ordinance change somewhere in April or May to extend the park time to midnight. Kevin Sanderson stated wedding receptions go beyond 10 p.m. Mr. Sawyer stated he would check into the situation. Ms. Washburn stated the people who rent the community center are asked to be out by midnight. Mayor Billis asked if the Odyssey of the Mind wanted to use the building every Friday and Saturday night for the entire month of October and the last full week of October. Ms. Washburn advised that was correct. Mr. Sanderson advised the haunted houses would stay in the building the entire month and they would be torn down after the last day of the month. Councilperson Ockerman asked why so many days were needed and why weekends would not work. Mr. Sanderson advised the number of days match what the other haunted houses do. Councilperson Bayless stated when the Odyssey of the Mind brought their presentation to the parks and recreation commission, the commission was concerned about insurance and that is now covered. Councilperson Bayless further stated the Odyssey of the Mind originally wanted to use the community center, but the parks and recreation commission suggested the commercial building as an alternative. Councilperson Bayless also stated the parks and recreation commission wanted to make sure that anything done to the commercial building would not damage the building. Councilperson Bayless advised the parks and recreation commission made a motion that if the Odyssey of the Mind would use the commercial building then Terry Hayes should be involved since the group he represents has done a lot of improvements to the building. Ms. Washburn stated she took Dan Flynn down there to look the building over, and there are four by fours along the outside wall of the building. She further stated the city wants to make sure that nothing can fall and advised she sent Mr. Hayes a letter to notify him that the Odyssey of the Mind was making its presentation tonight. Mayor Billis stated he did not believe council had to make a decision tonight. Councilperson Runyan asked if the issue should be referred back to the parks and recreation commission since they wanted clarification. Mayor Billis advised that would be the proper course of action. Ms. Washburn stated the parks and recreation commission meet on July 25 so there could be recommendation at the first council meeting in August. She further stated the city has a Halloween party on Halloween night, and Mr. Flynn has agreed that his group would work something out regarding the fee for these children. Councilperson Ockerman stated the city council allowed another group to put up shelving in the community center, and the shelving was not done the way the city wanted it done. Ms. Washburn advised everything would be put in a contract. Mayor Billis stated the city does not want to incur any costs for calling in ghost busters. Councilperson Bayless advised if the parks and recreation commission decide to use the multi-pass coupon as a fundraiser then there is a good chance that the city will receive some revenues for park improvements. Councilperson Ockerman asked Mr. Flynn if he had thought at all about donating a percentage of whatever is made to the park. Mr. Flynn advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman asked what percentage. Mr. Flynn advised around ten percent. Councilperson Ockerman stated the city council had no problem with allowing people to use the park, but the problem is trying to pay for it.

DISCUSSION ON ROLLER HOCKEY RINK CONTRACT: Councilperson Ockerman stated

Councilpersons Mehigh and Runyan went fishing with him this weekend, and the three of them took time on Friday night to go through the contract. Councilperson Ockerman stated he was very disturbed by the bulk of the contract, and there are items in the contract that should be eliminated entirely. He further stated it appeared to him and the others he talked to that the city is giving away rights the city already has, which he does not want to do. Councilperson Ockerman went through the contract changes as discussed with Councilpersons Mehigh and Runyan. The first paragraph on page one needs to have the exact days of the week designated for open skating, and there needs to be a sign in the park stating what the league times are and when open skating will be allowed. Councilperson Ockerman stated he believed council's intent was to allow the entire city the use of the facility because the city did not give away the ground the facility was built on. He continued with his changes and referred back to paragraph one. He recommended the following changes: remove the word "exclusively" from the first sentence and the entire last sentence from paragraph one, items one and two should be completely omitted, remove "and at the expiration thereof yield and deliver up the same" from item four, remove "which may be stored by LESSEE in an amount equal to that which LESSOR holds on said premises at the time of use. LESSEE agrees to carry liability insurance for it's players and volunteers in the Shiawassee County Youth Street Hockey Organization during games, practices and other hockey events held by the LESSEE at said facility" from item seven, remove items eight, nine and ten from page two, change item 12 to read "LESSEE shall provide the City with a landscape plan for the rink area, which must be approved by the city council.", remove "The Shiawassee County Youth Street Hockey Organization shall present to the City the names of the officers, board members and financial statement at the signing of this LEASE and each year hereafter dated October 30" from item 13 and add "All decisions must have approval of the parks and recreation director, league director, and city council" to item 13, remove items 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, remove "and in accordance with established rules of game" from item 19, and remove the last paragraph "The covenants and conditions herein shall bind the heirs, representatives and assigns of the LESSOR and LESSEE" from page three. Councilperson Ockerman stated the removal of these items would get the city a clean lease. All that is needed would be a percentage and a sign, but he felt everything else was totally biased towards the lessee and not the city. He further stated these are the suggestions that Councilpersons Mehigh, Runyan and himself have worked over pretty hard this weekend. Mr. Sawyer stated this particular lease has been bounced back and forth for over a year, and it was his intent to bring the lease in front of council in order to get input. He asked what decisions item 13 was referring to because the statement was extremely broad. Councilperson Runyan stated all decisions pertaining to the physical rink. Councilperson Mehigh stated he and Councilpersons Runyan and Ockerman looked at this agreement to make sure the kids in the community have the opportunity to use the roller rink and to make sure the City of Corunna has control of the roller rink. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not want another board or commission set up. If the lease is done this way, there is no need for a commission. The hockey organization has to come to the city every year for approval and the organization has to abide by these simple rules. Councilperson Dumond advised the roller rink is in the city's park and is the city's property and council cannot give a portion of the park away. There were complaints some time ago about someone kicking off a bunch of little kids who were using the roller rink on a Sunday morning. This person told the kids they could not skate there and that is a bunch of malarkey as far as he was concerned. Ms. Washburn advised

once the city posts the times when the residents can use the rink then her recommendation would be to have open skating with no hockey sticks, pucks or whatever else is used. Councilperson Dumond stated this information should be posted. Ms. Washburn advised it would be posted. Councilperson Mehigh stated the city wants the hockey rink to be a fun thing for the kids in the community. Councilperson Dumond stated he did not have a problem with the hockey league having practice times as long as there are other times available when the roller rink can be used. Ms. Washburn advised Mr. Loynes provided the city with game and practice times last year. She further advised during league time the roller rink is used quite a bit for practice. Councilperson Ockerman stated the hockey league has to tell the city council the time they need. He further stated the city wants the hockey league to use the roller rink, but the city is also very interested in the other kids in the community who want to use the roller rink. Ms. Washburn advised Mr. Loynes was present and informed council that she did not invite him because she knew there would be discussion and she did not know which direction the discussion would go. Councilperson Runyan stated he knows there are teams using the roller hockey rink, but he would like to have an open registration so all of the children can register to play on any of those hockey teams. Mr. Sawyer stated the intent of the discussion was to get council input since there has never been council input. He further stated he had some questions regarding the recommended changes. He asked if there were any specific reasons why item number 15 was being removed. Councilperson Ockerman advised he thought that item could be left in the contract. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought the city should retain ownership of the roller hockey rink and since the city has ownership then there is no reason to put this item in writing. Mr. Sawyer stated item number eight gives the city the right to terminate the lease if the roller rink is destroyed, and he was curious as to why this item was recommended for removal. Councilperson Mehigh stated he would not have a problem with leaving item number eight in the contract. Ms. Washburn stated when the parks and recreation director is absent then the city manager should fill in. She further stated she took items from three different contracts to create the current roller hockey rink contract, and she thought she had covered all of the bases. She also stated she did not mean to step on anybody's toes or take more authority than she should, but it was a place to start. Ms. Washburn advised she would retype the contract and a copy of the contract would be given to Mr. Loynes, the parks and recreation commission and city council. Councilperson Ockerman stated there are two items that are critically important; the lease fee percentage and the hours the league is requesting. Mr. Sawyer suggested attaching the time schedule as an addendum to the lease. He stated he felt the contract was workable and he was glad to see that many of the paragraphs were eliminated from the contract. Mr. Loynes asked to speak. Mayor Billis asked council if they had any objections and there were none. Mr. Loynes stated it sounded like the contract was going back to the original typed document that he worked with Mr. Sawyer, Bill Graham, and Terry Hayes on. Mr. Loynes further stated he felt everybody was making the contract harder than what was needed. He also stated the hockey league was not trying to take over the park. Mr. Loynes advised the hockey league does not skate on Sunday mornings. Ms. Washburn advised yes they do. Mr. Loynes stated the hockey league starts at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, and he proceeded to hand out copies of the times the hockey league uses the roller rink. Ms. Washburn advised Mr. Loynes that she gave council a copy of the usage times and stated she did not go over Mr. Loynes' head. She further advised one week ago Saturday, there were adults and children skating in the roller rink in the morning and they had out the goal nets. Mr. Loynes advised his hockey league has been done since June 10. Ms. Washburn stated she went to the park on Sunday evening and the goal nets were on the roller rink and there were adults

and children skating. Mr. Loynes advised those people were not on his league. Ms. Washburn stated someone has access to the storage shed. Mr. Loynes stated he would take care of that because those people are not a part of his hockey group. Councilperson Ockerman stated he thought council was pretty clear on what was expected and he felt what council was asking for was not unreasonable. Councilperson Bayless stated he did not think that hockey should be prohibited from open skating because that is what the roller rink is really for. There could be fathers and sons that might want to play a little one on one hockey at one end of the roller rink. Mr. Sawyer stated once the open skating times have been identified then he and the parks and recreation commission could come up with an open skating policy. There could be someone who would want to rent the roller hockey rink for a birthday party during one of the open skating periods.

CONSIDER VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS FROM JULY 2, 2001 COUNCIL MEETING: Mr.

Sawyer advised the fire board has not met yet, and the fire board members who are present have recommended that no action be taken on the fire board bill. Ockerman moved, Dumond seconded to approve the July 2, 2001 Library Board bills. Councilperson Ockerman asked Mr. Sawyer to ask the library board to put motions in their minutes.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

TABLE PUBLIC HEARING TO AUGUST 6, 2001 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER CHARTER

AMENDMENTS: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to table and re-notice the public hearing on charter amendments to August 6, 2001 at 7:15 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehigh, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER WAIVING CABLE FRANCHISE FEE FOR SHIAWASSEE REGIONAL EDUCATION

SERVICE DISTRICT: Ockerman moved, Dumond seconded to authorize the city manager to send a letter authorizing the exemption of Cable Franchise Fee for the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH THE LAW FIRM OF PLUNKETT & COONEY:

Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to authorize the city manager to execute the engagement letter with the law firm of Plunkett & Cooney for labor relations.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION ON ARMISTICE DAY PARADE AND CELEBRATION: Councilperson Mehig stated Mayor Davis and State Representative Larry Julian would like to have a community wide Armistice Day celebration. Councilperson Mehig further stated it would be a nice way to show off the city's streetscape. He also stated he told Mayor Davis that the issue would be brought up for discussion at the council meeting. Councilperson Mehig advised he spoke with Tom Wazny from Caledonia Township, and the township would also like to be a part of the celebration. Ms. Washburn asked how big the celebration would be and if the celebration would be a military show. Mayor Billis stated the proposed celebration was just in its infancy stage, and the celebration could be moved to a different community every year. Councilperson Mehig stated the celebration would have to involve people from different communities since it would be a regional organization. Councilperson Ockerman advised that Donnie Washburn has stated that he would help with the parade. Councilperson Ockerman further advised the parade and celebration would be a good thing since it would collectively involve all of the communities. Councilperson Dumond stated he liked the idea that Corunna would start off the celebration. Councilperson Mehig stated the city should be able to get the city's high school band to participate. Councilperson Ockerman asked Ms. Washburn if she would take charge of the celebration. Ms. Washburn advised she would like to have Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Spaniola involved. Mayor Billis suggested contacting State Representative Julian to ask him what he would like to do. Mr. Sawyer advised he was the chairman of the county's Veteran's Affairs Committee and everyone he has talked to about the concept has really liked the idea. The county veteran groups are struggling, and it takes a lot of support to put on a parade. Mayor Billis asked if the issue had been discussed at the Veteran's Affairs office. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman asked Mr. Sawyer if he would start the ball rolling and get back to council at the next meeting. Mayor Billis stated at this point he would tell State Representative Julian to let Corunna know what can be done for him and for the veterans.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Larry Friess stated after sitting on the city council for ten years he believed that Councilpersons Ockerman, Runyan and Mehig broke the Sunshine Law. A person cannot talk about city business whether you are on a fishing trip or on a front porch. Mr. Friess further stated the three councilpeople had made up their minds on what was going to happen, and Ms. Washburn was told how the three councilpeople wanted the hockey roller rink contract changed. Councilperson Ockerman advised there was no quorum. Mr. Friess advised he knew what a quorum was, but there were three councilpeople discussing how the contract would be changed. He further advised he was not going to argue with Councilperson Ockerman, but somebody better check the Sunshine Law. Councilperson Ockerman stated if the three councilpeople upset or made Mr. Friess unhappy then he was sorry. Mr. Friess advised he was not unhappy on what the three councilpeople did, but when something is supposed to be done then it should be done at the meeting and not in a fishing boat or on a porch.

Don Runyon asked who would pay the insurance on the hockey roller rink if someone gets hurt during open skating. Mr. Sawyer advised the city. The roller rink is covered in the current policy, and it costs \$20.00 annually for liability insurance. Mr. Runyon asked if the insurance would cover someone getting hit in the eye. Mr. Sawyer advised the hockey league pays its own insurance.

John Sinnott stated he has been going around and around with the water department since May about an overcharge on his water bill. He further stated Mr. Sawyer assured him that this issue would come before council, but he has not heard anything that addressed the issue tonight and he has been waiting for some type of answer. Mr. Sinnott also stated he had 7,000 gallons of water that is unaccounted for, and he was told that appearing before council was the next avenue to discuss this problem. Mr. Sinnott asked where he should go from here. Mayor Billis advised he was in the dark and assumed the city council was also. Mr. Sinnott apologized and advised that he talked to Mr. Sawyer and Linda LeCureux in the water department numerous times and was assured by Ms. LeCureux that she would talk to Mr. Sawyer about his situation. Unfortunately, after four weeks, Ms. LeCureux did not speak to Mr. Sawyer so he had to talk to Mr. Sawyer himself. Mr. Sinnott stated he paid the water bill, but he does not agree with it because he was actually out of the country for one of the weeks in that billing period. He further stated he had a plumber come to his house at his expense to look for a leak, but no leak was found. He also stated he was informed that this same type of water loss happened at the jail, and he assumed the city did the same thing for them by putting in a new meter. Mayor Billis stated he recognized Mr. Sinnott's concern and advised him that he was doing his best to present his issue. Mr. Sinnott advised he was assured that this issue would be presented to the city council. Mayor Billis asked Mr. Sawyer if he was aware of this issue. Mr. Sawyer advised he spoke with Mr. Sinnott about a week and one-half ago and Ms. LeCureux was on vacation at the time so he could not do anything at that particular point. Mr. Sawyer further advised this is a case where there has been a high meter reading, and the meter was pulled, tested, and found to be working properly. He informed Mr. Sinnott that he has the right to appeal the meter reading to council. Mr. Sawyer also advised the office staff does not change policies. Mr. Sinnott advised that he was assured by Mr. Sawyer that he would take care of this issue. Mayor Billis asked Mr. Sawyer if Mr. Sinnott has been informed that you are not going to do anything public for him. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Mr. Sinnott stated he was told the issue would be put on the agenda and that he would not have to attend because it would be taken care of. He further stated if he had not attended the council meeting the issue would not have been taken care of. Councilperson Runyan asked if the meter was defective. Mr. Sawyer advised no, the meter tested fine. Mr. Sinnott asked how the meter tested at the jail. Mr. Sawyer advised the meter tested fine. Mr. Sinnott asked what action was taken. Mr. Sawyer advised the county jail will be paying their water bill, but they have not been as quick to pay as Mr. Sinnott has. Mr. Sinnott stated he felt it was his responsibility to pay his bill. Mayor Billis stated there is a dilemma here. The meter was not defective, and Mr. Sinnott hired a plumber who said there were no leaks. Mr. Sinnott advised seven thousand gallons of water would be relatively evident if it was somewhere in the house. Mayor Billis asked what period of time did this occur. Mr. Sinnott advised one billing period. Mayor Billis stated he has heard this same discussion several times, and the one question he heard during the discussion was "is the stool leaking?" He further stated a stool leak could cause an extra two thousand gallons of water in a billing cycle. He asked Mr. Sinnott if he had a plumber check the toilet. Mr. Sinnott advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman asked Mr. Sinnott if he got a new meter. Mr. Sinnott advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman asked when the new meter was installed. Mr. Sinnott advised after he complained about the water bill. Councilperson Ockerman advised he had a similar situation, but Lisa Hitchcock was the city manager at that time. He further advised he had a plumber check his home and no reason was found for the extra usage. He also advised a new

meter was installed at his home, but he never got anything back. Mr. Sinnott stated he was not expecting anything back, but he was expecting some action and an answer. He further stated he was relatively ignored by Ms. LeCureux. Every time he would call he was told, "well, we were busy with the streetscape and she did not have time to find Mr. Sawyer", but he is a citizen who pays taxes and he deserves the same consideration as the streetscape. Mr. Sinnott also stated he did not appreciate being ignored. Mayor Billis stated Mr. Sinnott was absolutely right. Mr. Sinnott pays taxes and should not have been ignored. It is things like this that compel people to run for political positions. Mr. Sinnott advised he did not appreciate being ignored. Councilperson Dumond stated he sympathized with Mr. Sinnott. Mr. Sinnott stated the billing period was for April so council should understand his dismay at how long he has had to wait for any type of an answer. He never received a return call from anybody. Mayor Billis asked Mr. Sinnott if he had a statement from his plumber. Mr. Sinnott advised yes, but he did not have the statement with him. He further advised when he got the water bill he never expected to do anything but pay the bill. Mayor Billis asked how much the water bill was. Mr. Sinnott advised almost \$100.00 for two people. Mrs. Sinnott advised the water bill showed 10 units, but the normal water usage is four units. Councilperson Runyan asked Mr. Sinnott if he was billed for 7,000 extra gallons. Mr. Sinnott advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman stated it appeared that the city council should have some kind of policy where somebody does get a refund because the water was not used. It was pretty obvious to him that the water meter was defective. Mr. Sinnott advised he received a letter from the water department that stated the water meter was okay, and the water department was nice enough to waive the late charge. Councilperson Hornus stated this type of situation is not a wide spread occurrence, and he felt council should make some kind of adjustment on Mr. Sinnott's bill. Pat Yott advised she went through a similar situation a year ago, and she did not get an adjustment either but she got a new meter. Councilperson Runyan stated the city should have a policy to handle situations like this. Mr. Sinnott stated again he was not at the council meeting to get a refund, but that would be a bonus. Mayor Billis stated the city has never had a refund policy, but it appeared to him that Mr. Sinnott was before council to discuss the lack of equal treatment he received, and so far, he has not heard anyone address this. Mayor Billis further stated it is important to him that taxpayers in the community are treated decently. Mayor Billis further stated he appreciated Mr. Sinnott coming to the city council. Mayor Billis also stated on behalf of the city he personally apologized to Mr. Sinnott because he felt somewhat responsible since he is an elected official and Mr. Sinnott should not have been treated that way.

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehig, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:00 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK